

2. Printing of the Maharaja's College Catalogue

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (Cranganur): Sir, I move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 21,690 for Supplies and Services—Collegiate Education by Rs. 2,000. (To impress the Government with the need to refrain from such unnecessary expenditure.)

Sir, my idea in tabling this motion is to focus the attention of the Government upon the absolute waste of Rs. 2,000 for a purpose which is really unnecessary.

Mr. President: What purpose?

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (Cranganur): The printing of the catalogue. I would like to bring to the notice of the House the fact that the present librarian in the Maharaja's College was sent from here to Madras for special training. Therefore, he ought to know the modern system of maintaining a library. The modern system is not to have catalogues printed but to have card indexes. It will facilitate references and much trouble would be minimised for the students to get at any book they want from the library. In this connection, I would like to point out that in the Annamalai University, which we might regard as a modern University, they are following the card indexing system and not this catalogue business. I should think the card indexing system is less costly also. Therefore my submission is, this expenditure is an absolute waste. Apart from the fact that the amount provided is very high, I think the whole item may be deleted. The librarian may be asked to adopt the card indexing system. Besides, when we were discussing this item in the Standing Finance Committee meeting, I understood that there is an idea to make the purchase of this catalogue compulsory for the students. Again we go back to the old difficulties of students. As it is, the students have got to pay a lot on account of higher education. Coupled with this, the compulsory purchase of the catalogue—it may cost only four annas—will be too much of a burden. I commend the motion for the acceptance of the House.

***Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction):** Sir, while I greatly appreciate the general principle on which the hon'ble member takes his stand, viz., that all unnecessary expenditure on collegiate education should be discouraged, I think there is some misconception with regard to the nature and utility of this catalogue. The Maharaja's College library is even now working on the card index system and this is not intended as a substitute but as a supplement to the card index system. For one thing, there is no

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

chance of annual check of books by means of the card index. It is only intended for the convenience of those who want to refer to the library. If there is going to be an annual check of these books which is very essential in view of the large financial commitments undertaken by the Government, this card indexing system is not going to be of much help.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): Without interruption, Sir, I may be permitted to state that I am an old student of the Annamalai University. They have got a catalogue as well as the card index system. The card index system is intended only as a convenience to students to select the books.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): Sir, I want to know whether.....

Mr. President: Order, order. You can't interrupt speeches like this.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): I just wanted to know whether there is not a register in the College library wherein the names of all the books purchased by the College authorities are entered?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): We have registers from year to year and there are additions every year. They are departmental registers. A catalogue is certainly an additional convenience to the students themselves. Having expended such a lot of money in making a first class affair of the Maharaja's College library, I am quite certain that the hon'ble member will himself be convinced that this small paltry sum of Rs. 2,000 is not a great thing. In the second place, the work is being executed by the Government Press itself, and we shall be realising more than half of it by the sale of these catalogues, so that the nett expenditure to Government would be only Rs. 800 or Rs. 900. There is no question of principle here. There is no question of a big commitment either, so that I do not think this small item of expenditure deserves the notice of this House. It is just an attempt to complete what we have already done. The library is even now working on the card index system and to supplement that system, we are introducing a proper catalogue. If the hon'ble member, for example, wants to know whether there is a particular book in the library, you have to go round and round, from section to section, and you may also find that some of the books have not been entered. We find certain difficulties in the matter of check. We also found in the course of checking that certain books were missing, and the

Government had to take very serious action against those who were responsible for these losses. These things would not have happened, if we had a proper catalogue and proper facilities for annual check. That is the only reason why this catalogue is being printed. There is no question of principle or serious commitment involved in this.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (Nellayi): May I know, Sir, whether it is compulsory that every student should purchase a catalogue?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): Is it not also necessary that every student should buy a calendar? After all these are small things. The cost of a catalogue is only four annas. I am perfectly certain that the hon'ble member himself, in view of the explanation that I have given, will not find any necessity to take up this question at all.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (Cranganur): Sir, as regards the explanation of the Hon'ble Director, I am very sorry that I am not convinced at all. The whole necessity for the catalogue is explained as due to the fact that there are not proper records. If there are no proper records, it is no argument to say that the printing of a new catalogue in which the list of books will be complete is the proper thing to be done, to fill up the deficiency caused by the want of proper records. Nor do I concede that the sum is so paltry as not to deserve the notice of this House. As a matter of fact when panchayats are given Rs. 200 and Rs. 250 for the improvement of communications, this Rs. 2,000 may be saved and given to the Hon'ble Minister for that purpose. Therefore, my submission to this House is, this is a matter which the House ought to take serious notice of and we should see that money is not wasted. I press the motion to a division.

Motion put and lost

3. Research work done in the Maharaja's College

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (Cranganur): To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for Collegiate Education—Research.

(The additional provision for research is unnecessary)

Really speaking, Sir, I do not want to move the motion. I find the amount provided under this head last year was only Rs. 1,000. I do not know why Rs. 2,000 is provided this year. This is a matter which I failed to notice during the Standing Finance Committee meeting. That is why I tabled this cut motion. I want to know why this additional